IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented method for generating a price schedule for one or more products, the method comprising:

~~generating,~~ determining, by ~~a server~~ computer, ~~a transition graph comprising~~ a plurality of stages, each stage representing a time interval and comprising one or more ~~states and~~ states;

determining, by the computer, a plurality of paths, each path comprising a plurality of states, the plurality of states having at least one predecessor state that is coupled [[to]] with at least one successor state by a transition, each state having a price value, an inventory value, and a state ~~value, wherein the~~ value;

generating, by the computer, a transition graph ~~is generated~~ by repeating the following for the plurality of stages until a final stage is reached:

determining the price value of a successor state;

calculating the inventory value of the successor state using the price value and the inventory value of a predecessor state; and

calculating the state value of the successor state using the price value and the inventory value of the predecessor state;

selecting, by the ~~server~~ computer, a path of the plurality of paths according to the state values of the one or more states;

determining, by the ~~server~~ computer, a price schedule from the selected path; and

outputting, by the ~~server~~ computer, the price schedule to one or more computers ~~associated with~~ of one or more entities.

2-3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein selecting the path according to the state values comprises:

determining a state at the final stage having a state value; and

determining a path comprising a state of an initial stage and the state having the state value.

5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising eliminating a successor state in response to a constraint.

6. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

computing an elasticity curve; and

computing the inventory value of each successor state using the elasticity curve.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein:

each state has a certainty value; and

selecting the path comprises determining a state at the final stage having a certainty value of a predetermined value.

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Currently Amended)** A ~~computer-implemented~~ system for generating a price schedule for one or more products, the system comprising:

a ~~server~~ computer system coupled with one or more entities, the ~~server~~ computer system comprising:

a transition graph generator tangibly embodied on the computer system and configured to ~~generate a transition graph comprising~~:

determine a plurality of stages, each stage representing a time interval and comprising one or more states;

determine a plurality of paths, each path coupling a sequence of the one or more states such that at least one predecessor state is coupled [[to]] with at least one successor state by a transition, ~~transisiton,~~ each state having a price value, an inventory value, and a state ~~value, the~~ value;

~~transition graph generator configured to~~ generate [[the]] a transition graph by repeating the following for the plurality of stages until a final stage is reached:

determining the price value of a successor state;

calculating the inventory value of the successor state using the price value and the inventory value of a predecessor state; and

calculating the state value of the successor state using the price value and the inventory value of the predecessor state; and

an optimizer tangibly embodied on the computer system and coupled with the transition graph generator, the optimizer configured to:

select a path of the plurality of paths according to the state values of the one or more states; and

determine a price schedule from the selected path,

wherein the ~~server~~ computer system is ~~further~~ configured to output the price schedule to one or more computers ~~associated with~~ of the one or more entities.

10-11. **(Canceled)**

12. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 9, wherein the optimizer is further configured to select the path according to the state values by:

determining a state at the final stage having a state value; and

determining a path comprising a state of an initial stage and the state having the state value.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 9, wherein the transition graph generator is further configured to eliminate a successor state in response to a constraint.

14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 9, wherein:

each state has a certainty value; and

the optimizer is further configured to select the path by determining a state at the final stage having a certainty value of a predetermined value.

16. **(Canceled)**

17. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-readable storage medium embodied with software for generating a price schedule for one or more products, the software when executed using one or more computers is configured to:

~~generate a transition graph comprising~~ determine a plurality of stages, each stage representing a time interval and comprising one or more ~~states and~~ states;

determine a plurality of paths, each path comprising a plurality of states, the plurality of states having at least one predecessor state that is coupled [[to]] with at least one successor state by a transition, each state having a price value, an inventory value, and a state ~~value, wherein the~~ value;

generate a transition graph ~~is generated~~ by repeating the following for the plurality of stages until a final stage is reached:

determining the price value of a successor state;

calculating the inventory value of the successor state using the price value and the inventory value of a predecessor state; and

calculating the state value of the successor state using the price value and the inventory value of the predecessor state;

select a path of the plurality of paths according to the state values of the one or more states;

determine a price schedule from the selected path; and

outputting, the price schedule to one or more computers ~~associated with~~ of one or more entities.

18-19. **(Canceled)**

20. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein the software is further configured to select the ~~optimal~~ path according to the state values by:

determining a state at the final stage having a state value; and

determining a path comprising a state of an initial stage and the state having the state value.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein the software is further configured to eliminate a successor state in response to a constraint.

22. **(Canceled)**

23. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein:

each state has a certainty value; and

wherein the software is further configured to select the path by determining a state at the final stage having a certainty value of a predetermined value.

24. **(Canceled)**

25. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented system for generating a price schedule for one or more products, the system comprising:

a ~~server~~ computer system coupled with one or more entities, the ~~server~~ computer system comprising:

means for ~~generating a transition graph comprising~~ determining a plurality of stages, each stage representing a time interval and comprising one or more ~~states and~~ states;

means for determining a plurality of paths, each path comprising a plurality of states, the plurality of states having at least one predecessor state that is coupled [[to]] with at least one successor state by a transition, each state having a price value, an inventory value, and a state ~~value, wherein the~~ value;

means for generating a transition graph ~~is generated~~ by repeating the following for the plurality of stages until a final stage is reached:

determining the price value of a successor state;

calculating the inventory value of the successor state using the price value and the inventory value of a predecessor state; and

calculating the state value of the successor state using the price value and the inventory value of the predecessor state; and

means for selecting a path of the plurality of paths according to the one or more state values of the states, for determining a price schedule from the selected path, and for outputting the price schedule to one or more computers ~~associated with~~ of one or more entities.

26. **(Withdrawn)** A method for generating a price schedule, comprising:

generating a transition graph comprising a plurality of paths, each path comprising a plurality of states, each state having a price value, an inventory value, and a state value, the transition graph being generated by repeating the following for a plurality of stages until a final stage is reached:

computing an elasticity curve;

determining the price value of a successor state;

calculating the inventory value of the successor state using the elasticity curve, the price value, and the inventory value of a predecessor state;

adjusting the inventory value of the successor state by defining a plurality of locations, calculating an expected number of unrealized sales at each location, and adjusting the inventory value of the successor state in response to the expected number;

quantizing the inventory value and the price value of the successor state; and

calculating the state value of the successor state using the price value and the inventory value of the predecessor state;

selecting an optimal path according to the state values of the states by determining a state at the final stage having an optimal state value and determining a path comprising a state of an initial stage and the state having the optimal state value; and

determining a price schedule from the optimal path.

27-71. **(Canceled)**